

Unmanned MiG-23 crashes in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Belgium (R) — An unmanned MiG-23 fighter plane crashed into a Belgian house, exploded and killed a resident Tuesday, after flying across Western Europe through NATO air defences. A Belgian Defence Ministry official said the MiG apparently carried conventional shells but no nuclear weapons. Eyewitnesses reported several explosions after the jet crashed into a house in the West Belgian village near the French border at 10:37 a.m., killing a 19-year-old Belgian man. The house was destroyed, with only the MiG's tailplane, adorned with a red star, still recognizable. The Soviet Union said the fighter suffered a technical malfunction during a training flight over Poland. The official news agency TASS said in a brief report that the pilot had ejected, apparently over Poland, and was alive. A spokesman for the West German air force's administrative headquarters said in Cologne the MiG took off from Kolevratz in Poland, more than 1,000 kilometres from where it came down. NATO radar spotted it over Warsaw Pact territory and two U.S. F-15 fighters from a U.S. airbase at Soesterberg in the Netherlands were scrambled to intercept it after it entered West German airspace at an altitude of 12,000 metres.

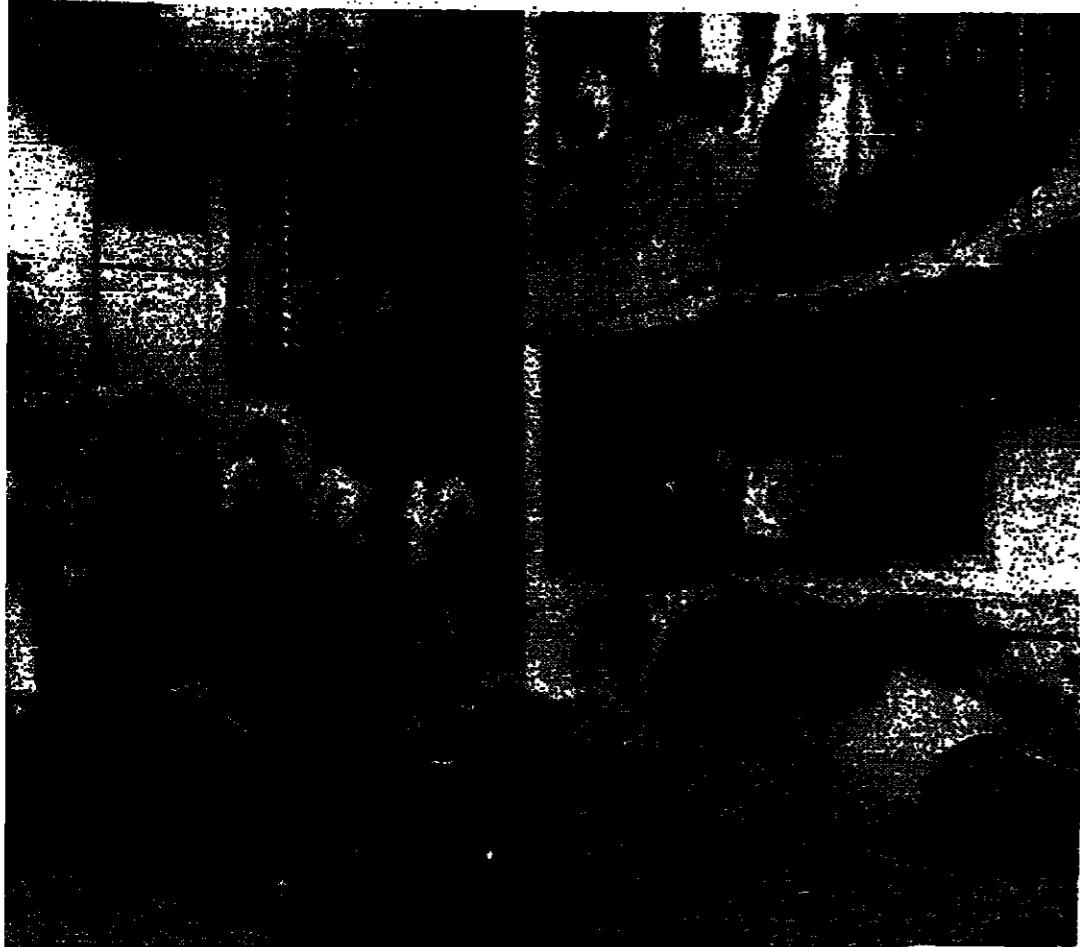
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refugees surveying damages to houses caused by the fierce artillery shelling that raged over the weekend.

Militias lift land blockade on Aoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese militias said Tuesday they had lifted a land siege on Aoun's rightist enclave and opened Beirut airport to help support Arab efforts to bring peace to Lebanon.

Syrian-backed military and security sources said army troops removed blocks from their end of the museum crossing point at the green line dividing Beirut into predominantly Christian east and mainly Muslim western sectors.

Troops loyal to army commander Major-General Michel Aoun lifted restrictions at their end and they were permitted to drive through without restrictions.

Police said two more crossings, the north and east linking the Christian-dominated rightist enclave to Syrian-controlled territory had also opened.

Beirut airport officials said Lebanon's only air link with the outside world was officially open from midday (0900 GMT), but no planes had landed or taken off so far.

Thousands of civilians flooded the three crossings in Beirut, north Lebanon and the mountain east of the capital after they reopened traffic after almost four months.

The Syrian-backed Muslim army command of Major-General Sami Khatib said private cars could be allowed to cross into the 10-square-kilometre enclave during a 13-hour period daily.

Trucks carrying food supplies and other commodities would be

allowed to cross overnight, the statement said. It did not elaborate.

A source at Aoun's command, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the reopening of crossing gateways as "an encouraging sign."

"We'll wait to see if they allow supplies to cross overnight," added the source.

The reopening came one day after Shi'ite Muslim militia chief Nabil Berri announced that the land siege of the enclave would be lifted as "a goodwill gesture."

Berri made the announcement in Damascus and said Beirut airport also will be reopened to "all people."

But Berri said a sea blockade imposed March 21 on ports to prevent arms reaching Aoun would continue.

Aoun has previously linked the reopening of the airport to an end of the sea blockade.

The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), another Syrian-backed militia, and Amal had been fighting Aoun's forces since mid-March.

Political sources told Reuters Syria had asked a three-member Arab committee of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria to ensure the withdrawal of Soviet-made surface-to-surface Frog-7 missiles from Aoun's army.

They added that if the missiles based in the rightist enclave were fired, their range of 70 kilometres meant they would be able to hit Damascus.

Trucks carrying food supplies and other commodities would be

allowed to cross overnight, the statement said. It did not elaborate.

He gave no further details. Many political parties in Sudan have militias loyal to them.

Sudan's official news agency quoted a decree saying citizens and illegal foreign currency dealers should deposit all foreign currency in banks or convert it to Sudanese pounds.

The junta, which has vowed to stamp out smuggling, hoarding and black marketeering, gave people seven days to comply with the order or face the death sentence from military tribunals.

Illegal dealings in the dollar have robbed successive governments of badly-needed resources and have also been used by speculators to import goods that Sudan could not afford to buy.

Sudan has a foreign debt estimated at \$14 billion and inflation running at 80 per cent a year.

Life in Khartoum appeared relatively normal Tuesday with no unusual troop movements.

Bashir also said undisclosed number of militiamen in Khartoum

had turned themselves in, while those guarding Mahdi's Umma Party headquarters had fled after abandoning their weapons.

"We will not have mercy on those who committed crimes against the people," Bashir vowed.

An official statement said a total of 15 southern politicians who worked under Mahdi were arrested Tuesday on charges of corruption.

This brings to 45 the number of people suspected of corruption during Mahdi's three-year rule.

Bashir said earlier that 30 people from northern Sudan had been detained.

Among those arrested Tuesday are Angel Beda, head of the southern council, Yohannes Yor Akol, a former culture and information minister, and governors Lawrence Modu Tombe and Gabriel Yal Dok of the Equatoria and Upper Nile regions.

Bashir was the little-known commander of a brigade in the isolated town of Al Mughayir in south Kordofan until toppling prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government Friday.

He said Sudan's 25 million peo-

ple were capable of building their country but had been prevented from doing so by the corruption and nepotism which he said characterised party rule.

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Afghan officials say rebels coming to terms

MAIMONA, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan officials say they are bypassing Mujahideen leaders who have refused to hold peace talks and are negotiating directly with rebel commanders in the field.

Their many field commanders have already agreed to come to terms with President Najibullah's government.

The main rebel groups based in Pakistan reject any possibility of negotiations with a government they have been fighting to oust for 10 years.

Last week they flatly rejected any part in proposals by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations between the fighting groups. Najibullah accepted the initiative.

Lieutenant General Abdul Haq Olumi, secretary of the government's Supreme Defence Council, told reporters many rebel commanders have taken a "wait-and-see" attitude since Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan last February.

He said 54,000 guerrillas had reached agreements with the government which in many instances gave them semi-autonomous rule in their own regions.

Officials were negotiating with up to 50,000 more rebels, he said.

"The Mujahideen who are fighting against us now are very limited," said Hashem Zahmat, secretary of the ruling People's

Najibullah Maseer told reporters in the provincial capital of Mazar-e-Sharif that Balkh had been among the most successful in winning rebels over.

Political analysts say Najibullah is banking on the fact that many rank-and-file Mujahideen are tired of fighting.

They say many Afghans were united in their disgust at the nine-year Soviet troop presence, but now the soldiers are gone a growing number are angry at the United States and Pakistan for continuing to arm the guerrillas.

"Why does VOA say the Mujahideen control our province?" asks a 25-year-old teacher in Maimana, 70 kilometres south of the Soviet border, said rebels who came to terms with the government were allowed to keep their weapons.

The government also gave their regions fertiliser, seed, building materials and other assistance to rebuild.

"Our talks are simple. They are not about surrendering to the government," said Najmuddin Kawayani, a member of the political bureau and secretary of the party's central committee.

"We are talking about recognising (these groups) as a force and seeking how to use this force to help the people."

The governor of Balkh province to the east of Fariab said he had also struck deals with several Mujahideen groups.

Khomeini's son shuns presidency

NICOSIA (R) — The son of Iran's late supreme leader indicated Monday he was not running for president, virtually ensuring that Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani would win the post.

Ahmad Khomeini said in a letter to parliament that he still needed time to recover from the death of his father Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini a month ago to consider his political future.

Eighty men signed up for the July 28 polls by the close of registration Sunday. Ahmad, known to have had presidential ambitions, was the only person seen able to pose a serious challenge to frontrunner Rafsanjani.

The Islamic revolution is the toddling child of the imam (Khomeini). We should all provide whatever this toddler

needs," Ahmad said.

"I intensely loved the imam and today I should do my best to safeguard the prestige of the imam, which is the prestige of Islam and the system."

Rafsanjani, 54, a pragmatist favouring economic growth and good relations with the outside world, has gained support for his presidency from various groups and personalities in the Iranian leadership, including Khomeini.

Constitutional amendments to be put to referendum on the day of the election are expected to widen the executive powers of the president, making Rafsanjani the dominant political leader.

Embattled Shamir steps up assault on U.S.-PLO talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, fighting off a rightist challenge to his proposals for Palestinian elections, stepped up attacks on U.S. contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO Monday.

Washington's intensified talks with the PLO have embarrassed Shamir ahead of a showdown in his Likud party Wednesday with headline opponents of his plan for a poll to choose negotiators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are opposed to the contacts between the United States and the PLO and we do not see any use in them," Shamir told visiting U.S. congressmen.

"It would be better if they would invest their efforts to convince the Arab states to support our initiatives and convince the Palestinians (in the occupied territories) to reach an understanding with Israel," he said.

Shamir's rightist critics have seized on recent high-level U.S. contacts with the PLO to argue that Israel is indirectly negotiating with the organisation and will eventually be dragged into concluding a Palestinian state.

The 2,600-member Likud party central committee will meet Wednesday to discuss Shamir's elections initiative.

Shamir told the congressmen no changes would be made in his initiative because the decision had already been made by the government and approved by the parliament.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy are demanding clauses barring Arab Jerusalem Arabs from voting and making elections conditional on an end to violence.

The foreign ministry said Israel

was seeking clarification of a Kuwaiti press report that U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and would protest to the United States if was true.

Although promptly denied in Washington and Tunis, the report in the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam fanned Israeli anger at Washington's talks with the PLO.

Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, told Reuters: "Obviously we are unhappy with the talks between the U.S. and PLO and any further upgrading is upsetting."

He said President George Bush had written to Shamir reiterating U.S. commitment to Israel.

Israel protested to Washington last week over talks between Pelletreau and Arafat deputy Salah Khalaf.

The United States told Israel the meeting was social and not an upgrading in the level of official contacts.

The talks with Khalaf were the highest-level since the United States ended a 13-year ban on contact with the group.

Kollek's views

Teddy Kollek, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, says 140,000 Arabs in Jerusalem should participate in any elections held to choose Palestinians to negotiate the future of the occupied lands.

"We must accept that the Arabs of East Jerusalem see themselves as Palestinians," Kollek was quoted as saying by his spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer.

"I think the anger and hostility we would provoke by denying Jerusalem Arabs the opportunity to participate in the proposed elections is far more ominous than any supposed danger from their joining a democratic pro-

cess," Kollek, 78, a member of the Labour Party, was quoted as saying.

"What the Israeli government is proposing now is elections to choose Palestinian Arab leaders to negotiate with Israel on the shaping of the Palestinian future," said Kollek.

"The Arabs of Jerusalem clearly deserve the opportunity to share in the decision-making process. This is no way prejudices Israel sovereignty in 'united' Jerusalem."

"Assassination plot"

In another development, the Israeli army said Monday Palestinians plotted last year to assassinate Shamir during a general election campaign.

A spokesman said the army had arrested Ahmad Abu Mudayeen of the occupied Gaza Strip for masterminding the plan and a prosecutor had indicted twins Fawzi and Faiez Matawa Al Khour, 26, for concealing information about it.

The attack was to take place during Shamir's visit to a southern Israeli bedouin village just before the November general election, held as the Palestinian uprising raged in the occupied territories.

"(Al Khours) heard from Ahmad Abu Mudayeen that he planned an attack against the life of the prime minister when he was to be at the mukhtar's (village leader) house in Rahat," the army spokesman said.

"Mudayeen asked Fawzi to help him and he (Fawzi) did not tell the authorities."

The twins were charged with possessing weapons and with membership of the PLO.

The spokesman said Mudayeen had not yet been indicted.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman gets warships to police Hormuz

NICOSIA (R) — The last of four warships custom-built in Britain for Oman has joined the sultanate's navy to help police the strategic strait of Hormuz. "They are 56-metre vessels, something between a corvette and a frigate," commander Antony Ogilvy, the naval and air attaché at the British embassy in Geneva, told Reuters by telephone. The fourth ship joined the fleet Sunday. The Oman News Agency said the new warships will enhance the sultanate's role of ensuring the right of passage of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. "The new small frigates, armed with 40-mm anti-aircraft Exocet missiles and a 76-mm front gun, were designed to meet the special requirements of the Omani navy. They were built by Vosper Thorneycroft. Oman shares the Hormuz, the only entrance to the Gulf, with Iran. During its eight-year-long war with Iraq in which a ceasefire came into force last August, Iran attacked hundreds of commercial ships and threatened to block the Hormuz. "The new small frigates will act as an effective deterrent against any aggressor and help patrol the Hormuz," Ogilvy said.

Tehran builds metro

NICOSIA (R) — The first stretch of Tehran's long-delayed metro will open by November, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. Work on the metro project, designed by French contractors, began in the 1970s but was disrupted by the 1979 revolution and did not resume until three years ago. IRNA monitored in Nicosia, said \$3.2 billion (US\$2.6 million) had been spent on the commuter railway so far. The 16-kilometre section to start operation in November is part of the 30-kilometre main north-south line. The other planned main line, from east to west, will be 62 kilometres long. Officials hope the metro will ease the capital's traffic congestion problem and reduce air pollution. IRNA said about a third of the length of both lines was underground.

Cleric rejects call to kill AIDS victims

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's top Muslim authority on Tuesday rejected a fellow cleric's statement that AIDS victims should be killed. Grand Mufti Sayed Tantawi, Egypt's state-appointed senior authority on Islamic rulings, told reporters the religion did not allow the killing of AIDS patients, even in hopeless cases. Abdullah Al Mashad, head of a committee at Cairo's Al Azhar University charged with issuing opinions on religious issues, said Monday AIDS patients should be denied food, water and medical treatment. "We must purge society of the AIDS patient and those like him because his existence causes public harm," Mashad, who ranks below the grand mufti in Egypt's Islamic hierarchy, told Reuters. But Tantawi said it would be difficult to justify killing AIDS patients even if they had acquired the disease through immoral acts. "If reliable doctors say this disease is acquired only through immoral means, and that this patient is immoral, then the Islamic 'Hadid' (death by stoning) should not be implemented against him unless he confesses or real proof is presented. "Otherwise AIDS patients can only be isolated," he said. Islam allows for death by stoning in cases of adultery or homosexuality, but it requires a confession or several witnesses. At least four people, including one foreigner, have died in Egypt from AIDS.

Tunisian amnesty takes effect

TUNIS (R) — President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Monday signed into law an amnesty for 5,416 Tunisians, clearing the way for the leaders of the country's Islamic movement to reapply for the recognition as a political party. The Tunisian parliament passed the law last Tuesday but the amnesty did not come into effect until signed by the president. The law restores the civil rights of people convicted of a wide range of politically inspired crimes committed during the 30-year-rule of ousted President Habib Bourguiba. Beneficiaries include most of the leadership of the Nahda (Renaissance) movement, an influential group of Muslim militants who are seeking to take part in politics. The movement applied for recognition earlier this year but the Interior Ministry turned down the request because of the criminal records of the leaders. It now plans a new application.

Brother pleads for release of hostage

BEIRUT (R) — The brother of British hostage John McCarthy has appealed to his kidnappers to release him in time for a reunion with their dying mother. "Our mother is dying in a London hospital. Bring John back to her so she leaves this life assured of her son's safety," said a statement by Terrence McCarthy. "I urge you in the name of mercy for which Islam is known to fulfil the wish of a dying woman who wants to see her son before she dies," said the Arabic for Worldwide Television News (ETN), was kidnapped in Beirut in April 1986. In London, doctors have said Sheila McCarthy could die at any time. McCarthy is one of 22 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Briton held on movies charge in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Briton was arrested three weeks ago in Saudi Arabia's eastern province for dealing in pornographic films, diplomatic sources reported. The diplomats identified the Briton as Paul Smith and said he was working in the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia's oil centre. They had no further details. London's Press Association agency said he was a 42-year-old nurse at the British-run Al Fanateer hospital in Jubail, a petrochemical industry centre. His hometown was not given.

Philippines to help dancers in Lebanon

MANILA (R) — About 300 penniless Filipino dancers in Lebanon who have resorted to prostitution may be given free plane tickets home, a Philippine Foreign Ministry official said. Assistant Secretary Israel Bocobo said the women were forced into prostitution in Lebanon after being expelled from Cyprus when work permits in nightclubs had expired. Bocobo said the dancers would be given plane ticket if it was found they had been abused by their employers. "The department of foreign affairs has instructed the consul-general in Lebanon ... to get an immediate inventory of these Filipinos for possible early repatriation," he said.

Iraqis develop radar aircraft

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said Monday it had successfully test-flown its first domestically built early warning radar aircraft and hailed it as "a great military achievement," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hussein Kamel Hassan, minister for industry and military industrialisation, as saying the test flight early Monday was "a complete success."

INA said President Saddam Hussein named the new aircraft Adnan-1 after Defence Minister Adnan Khairan, who was killed in a helicopter crash last month.

The agency said Hassan told Hussein in a telegram announcing the test flight: "This project provides defence capabilities to track enemy warplanes from a distance of hundreds of kilometres and at various heights, even very low ones."

The agency did not give any details of the aircraft. But Iraq

displayed a Soviet-built Ilyushin IL-76 jet transport, Western codename "candid," modified into an airborne early warning-type aircraft at a defence exhibition in Baghdad last April.

Military analysts who saw the four-engined aircraft, codenamed Baghdad-1, said Iraqi air force officers said it carried Iraqi-built equipment.

They said the radar, believed to be French-built Thomson-CSF Tiger units, could track and identify targets as far away as 350 kilometres.

But they noted that the system does not provide 360-degree coverage like units used aboard U.S. early warning radar aircraft or the Soviet air force's own version of the Candid, the Mainstay.

The analysts said the Iraqis reported that the radar system had been used operationally in the final stage of the Gulf war with Iran. Fighting halted with a ceasefire last Aug. 20.

The Iraqis are driving to build up their own defence industry and are striving to secure Soviet and French technology assistance to start their own aerospace industry and build new fighters under licence.

The development of an Iraqi airborne early warning system would enhance its defensive capabilities, particularly against Iran which is not known to have such aircraft.

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Western diplomatic analysts said there are no direct contacts

between Tehran and Washington but Iranian sources said Pakistan has been playing the role of go-between.

Political analysts look to the widely-expected election to president this month of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who has proven a consummate artist in manoeuvring himself and the country through the political upheavals of the last year.

But despite the rhetoric, Iran's new leaders may reopen contacts with the West and Washington, quicker than expected following the death last month of supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Western and Iranian analysts say.

Iranian, who was seen as supporter of better ties with the West, resigned as deputy foreign minister in April at the height of the Islamic resurgence, when Khomeini sacked

his own designated spiritual successor Ayatollah Hossein

Ali Montazeri.

The analysts expect the new leadership to gradually cool the anti-Western sentiment sparked by Khomeini in defence of Islamic principles, marked by his call last March for the killing of British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam.

"I think after the elections there will be a lot of changes and

improvement with the West. It may take six months, it may take a year," said one Iranian analyst close to parliamentary members in Tehran.

"The West still has the technology and the money that Iran cannot find anywhere else," said one Western diplomat, referring to Iran's pressing need to solve growing economic problems.

But Iran's Islamic leaders can just as easily turn off such popular protest when it suits, as

they did this week when similar slogans against the Soviet Union were dropped following Rafsanjani's successful trip to Moscow last month.

Some Western analysts quote Rafsanjani's visit only days after Khomeini's burial, as an example of just how fast Iran can change directions.

Khomeini referred to Moscow in his will as a "satanic force," but Rafsanjani said Khomeini had wanted to improve relations with the Soviets.

U.S. demands that the Lebanon hostages be released is a key factor in slowing the process of rapprochement between Washington and Tehran down, Western diplomats said.

"We don't see how there can be any improvement in relations until the hostages are released," said a Gulf-based U.S. diplomat.

ZARQA: **CHURCHES**

PROGRAMME ONE

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JNG CONGRATULATES VENEZUELA: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Venezuelan President Carlos Pérez on his country's Independence Day. In the cable, the King wished the president continued happiness, and more progress and prosperity for the Venezuelan people. (Petra)

HARIF ZAID RECEIVES ENVOYS: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid bin Shaker had a meeting in his office Tuesday with Moroccan ambassador to Jordan Abdul Latif Laraki with whom he reviewed bilateral cooperation in a number of fields. The Turkish and Indian ambassadors later called on the prime minister for a farewell visit on the occasion of the end of their tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

AWZI RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY: Upper House of Parliament speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jasem Hussein, who called at Lawzi to bid farewell on the occasion of the end of his tenure in Jordan. Lawzi and Hussein reviewed the distinctive relations between Jordan and Iraq. (Petra)

MAJALI MEETS WITH AMBASSADORS: Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Al Majali had a meeting in his office Tuesday with Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Muhib Muqbel and the Algerian Ambassador Mohammad Bargham. The separate meetings were devoted to cultural and informational relations between Jordan on the one hand, and Algeria and Egypt on the other. (Petra)

AMERICAN RECEPTION: American Ambassador to Jordan Tosco Suddarth Tuesday hosted a reception to mark the Independence Day of the United States of America. The reception was attended by senior government officials and members of the diplomatic missions in Jordan. (Petra)

SOVIET STUDENTS VISIT JUST: A Soviet student delegation from Tashkent University Tuesday visited Jordan University of Science and Technology, where they were briefed on its establishment, programmes, admissions and registration procedures and the services it offers to students. (Petra)

MANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC TEAM AT YARMOUK: A team of teachers and technicians from the Manchester Polytechnic Institute in the United Kingdom paid a visit to Yarmouk University Tuesday and met with its President Mohammad Hamdan. The team was briefed on the university's programmes and development. They also visited a number of faculties and were briefed on their function. (Petra)

ECONOMIC VENTURES IN TAFILEH: Heads of local councils round the southern town of Tafileh held a meeting Tuesday to discuss joint economic ventures in their region. A spokesman later said that a joint programme has been reached to carry out economic and income-generating projects in Hassa, Basira and Tafileh. (Petra)

RURAL WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: A three-day training course involving rural women in development projects in their own areas ended at Ma'an, in southern Jordan, Tuesday. The 20 participants discussed development and services programmes, according to a spokeswoman for the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund which organised the meeting. (Petra)

INDUSTRIAL AREA IN MAFRAQ: Mafraq Municipality has offered a JD 307,000 tender to a local company for the construction of an industrial area in Mafraq. The area includes 76 stores and all necessary facilities. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY PROGRAMMES: The People's Army Council in Ma'an Governorate Tuesday met under the chairmanship of Ma'an Governor Eid Qatarnah and reviewed the People's Army programmes and the training plans, which are designed to upgrade the training standards of the People's Army recruits. (Petra)

EDUCATIONAL RENOVATION PROGRAMME: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) regional unit for coordinating the educational renovation programme representative, Farouq Hamdi Al Farra, Tuesday discussed with the director of the Education Development Department at the Education Ministry, Wajih Al Farah, the existing relations between Jordan and UNESCO and Jordan's renovation programme, which will be carried out by Mu'ta University in some of the Karak Governorate schools. (Petra)

EXPATRIATE GIRLS TO GATHER AT AJLOUN: A total of 70 Jordanian expatriate girls will be taking part in the second national gathering to be held in Ajloun permanent youth camp on July 28. The gathering is organised by the Youth Ministry with the aim of strengthening the relations between Jordanian youths abroad and their homeland. The gathering's programme includes lectures, symposiums and dialogue between the youth and leaders and decision makers in Jordan, in addition to field visits to a number of scientific, historical and cultural sites. (Petra)

BAQAA DEVELOPMENT: A total of JD 1,145,000 out of JD 442,000 were spent on infrastructure projects in the Baqaa development area. The municipal and rural projects accounted for JD 718,000, followed by education which accounted for JD 570,000 and the health projects JD 370,000. (Petra)

HIEF DIES TRYING TO ESCAPE: A 23-year old man, identified only as A.M. Sh., fell down from a second floor apartment and died after robbing jewellery from the house. Trying to escape by climbing water pipes, the thief fell off and sustained injuries. He was ushered to North Marka Health Centre, and died of his injuries upon arrival. After searching his pockets, two bracelets, a gold ounce, three golden rings and silver chain were found. (Al Dustour)

Ministry assesses services offered to Turkish pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Tuesday to assess services being offered to pilgrims from other countries travelling through Jordanian territory, particularly Turkish pilgrims.

Dr. Ahmad Hilayel, the ministry's secretary general, who chaired the meeting, said that facilities for the convenience of the Turkish pilgrims were provided at the Pilgrims City near the northern border town of Ramtha, where they arrived in the past few days by land from Syria en route to Saudi Arabia.

Hilayel said that facilities at the

border post were accorded to the pilgrims and their city near Ramtha has been supplied with water, electricity and other basic services.

An apartment from Ramtha pilgrims passing through Jordanian territory can benefit from rest houses set up at a number of posts along the pilgrim's route to Saudi Arabia, Hilayel noted.

Before the meeting, Hilayel received in his office a group representing the Turkish pilgrims with whom he reviewed the various arrangements for their stay in the country on their way to and back from the holy places.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammed Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of children's books held within the framework of the Ninth Arab Children's Congress at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Constructed Narratives" at the British Council.
- * An exhibition of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.

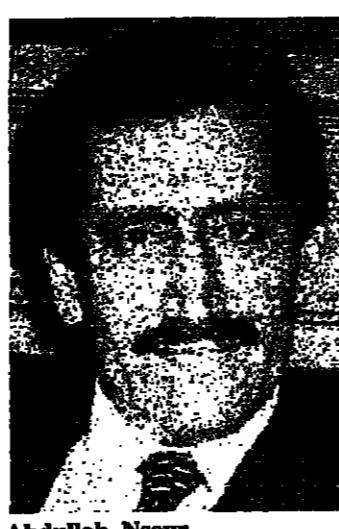
New organisational structure for Amman Education Department approved

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Abdullah Al Nsour Tuesday approved the new organisational structure for Greater Amman Education Department, under which the department will be divided into three educational zones, each one being responsible for a specific number of schools and educational institutions.

Under the new organisational structure a new department has been created for the first time to take exclusive responsibility for the private sector educational institutions.

Dr. Nsour appointed Mohammad Bani Hani as director of education for the first zone; Hussein Kokash as director of education for the second zone and Khalid Al Sheikh as director of education for the third zone, which will be totally concerned with the private educational institutions affairs.

The new organisational structure, which was prompted by the increase in the educational institutions in the area, aims at providing all administrative and technical



Abdullah Nsour

resources needed to improve the educational process.

The organisational structure will enhance the educational supervision scheme and will help facilitate follow up on the educational process in all the department's schools, which almost includes one third of the teachers and students in Jordan.

The Ministry of Education had earlier formed a special committee to study the educational situation in the Greater Amman Education Department in light of the significant increase in the number of schools, teachers and students.

The committee had come to the conclusion that schools in Greater Amman Education Department should be divided between the two newly created zones, taking into consideration the teacher's and students' comfort and proximity of areas served by the two zones.

The Greater Amman Education Department's first zone includes 195 schools, attended by 112,538 students and manned by 4,650 teachers. The second zone includes 201 schools attended by 93,061 students and staffed by 4,532 teachers while the third zone includes 477 privately owned educational institutions attended by 60,284 students and staffed by 3,641 teachers, in addition to 80 cultural centres attended by 8,042 students and staffed by 217 teachers.

ACC civil aviation teams end talks on integration of airlines

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of civil aviation authorities in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have ended a two-day meeting in Baghdad by issuing a set of recommendations designed to bring about integration among their airlines and boost cooperation in civil aviation.

Mr. Ali Ghadour, Royal Jordanian chairman and chief executive officer, who attended the meetings, said upon returning here Tuesday that the four countries recommended unifying laws and regulations governing civil aviation in Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt, step up technical, economic and trade coop-

eration among their national airlines and take steps to implement joint plans for the future.

Ghadour said that the recommendations will be submitted to the ACC Higher Committee meeting which will convene in Sanaa, North Yemen in September before practical steps for their implementation can be taken.

The meeting in Baghdad,

Ghadour noted, was in implementation of a resolution taken by the leaders of the ACC countries at their Alexandria summit last month.

The two-day talks covered formalities related to passports, customs services and other duties

connected with air travel between the four states and a proposal for the creation of a joint airline.

In March, the ACC countries agreed to open their airspace for each other and to consider travel between them as domestic flights. So far this has not been implemented and it was thought that the ACC Higher Committee will have to endorse this step at the Sanaa meeting.

Jordan's delegation to the Baghdad meeting was led by Civil Aviation Authority Director General Mahmoud Balqez. It grouped officials from Royal Jordanian and the Civil Aviation Authority.

NMC students to perform at Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) National Music Conservatory (NMC) will give two performances at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts this year, which will take place during the period July 5 to July 20, 1989.

The conservatory will give its first performance on the opening day of the festivals, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m., and the second will be on Sunday July 16, at 7:30. The two performances will be held at the Artemis Theatre.

The conservatory programme will be divided into three main sections. The first section will be presented by the conservatory's students of the Arabic Musical Instruments.

The players will present Samai', doulab, takasim, Muwashah-

and a national song. This section consists of four kanoun, four oud and one Nai players.

The performance of the second section will be presented by the wind instrument group which is composed of 20 male and female students. This group will perform four international pieces of music which will include the Andante Movement of the Surprise Symphony by Haydn.

The third section will be performed by the string instrument group consisting of beginners under the age of four who will present small pieces of music.

This section also includes a string instrument orchestra composed of 18 players performing for 20 minutes eight classical pieces of music.

The conservatory was inaugu-

rated in October 1986 by Her Majesty Queen Noor. It is one of the NHF projects with the aim of developing a national music programme in Jordan and hence develop a professional quality youth orchestra, whose members could go on to form a Jordanian symphony orchestra.

The conservatory started to offer instructions to only 45 students in its first year and now, in its third year the student body increased to 162.

The conservatory students have performed at the Jerash Festival for three consecutive years since its establishment and have made special appearances for a number of functions in Amman. They also attended a music camp which was held in the summer of 1988.

Khayyat arrives in S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has arrived in Saudi Arabia to head Jordan's official government mission to this year's pilgrimage season.

Khayyat, who is accompanied by Ministry officials, will meet with his counterparts from Arab and Islamic countries to discuss religious affairs and ways of promoting cooperation in religion-related affairs.

As the minister arrived, Ministry officials reported that all Jordanian pilgrims who had arrived in the holy places were in good health and there was not a single report about any illness among them.

The ministry's Secretary

the pilgrims throughout the holy pilgrimage which ends by July 13.

Hilayel said that most of the

pilgrims have now arrived and the rest, including those arriving by air, will arrive within the next two days.

Nearly 15,000 Jordanians are performing this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina and they all benefit from the ministry's services and those provided by the customs officials at the border posts as well as by the Public Security Department (PSD), Hilayel noted.

He said that the Health Ministry's various centres has provided vaccination services to the pilgrims and providing health officials to offer medical services.

EC to help boost Jordan's dairy herd

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) in Brussels has given its go-ahead for a grant of European Currency Units (ECU) 500,000 (approximately JD 282,300) to be channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture to improve support services for cattle breeding in Jordan, according to a press release received in Amman Tuesday.

The grant is drawn from the Jordan-EC cooperation agreement's third financial protocol, which lays particular emphasis on assisting the national effort to strengthen the agricultural sector.

The funds will be used to mount a campaign to provide high quality artificial insemination for beef and dairy cattle, and to upgrade reproductive diseases control and monitoring, the press release said.

Jordan's total cattle population stable over the last 10 years at

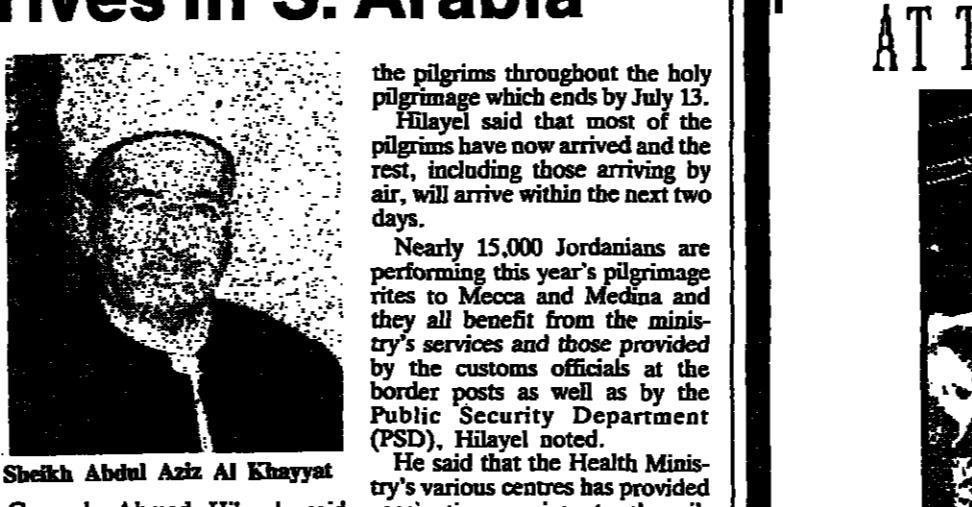
around 30,000 heads — has seen a steady increase in the proportion of Friesian dairy cows, which today make up 60 per cent of the herd.

This trend will continue due to the higher reproduction and milk production levels of the Friesian cows, and it is expected that in the future, with the improvement of the cattle raising environment and a preference for local milk, milk products and local meat, the number of cattle will increase.

Artificial insemination (AI),

practised in Jordan since 1960, is

carried out by Ministry of Agriculture vets through eight insemination offices.



Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

In 1988 over 5,000 inseminations were conducted using frozen semen from Europe. The results have been favourable, with a conception rate of 80 per cent recorded. But the distribu-

JIEC begins expansion of Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Tuesday announced that it is expanding the present Sahab Industrial City (SIC) with the purpose of absorbing more industrial projects and businesses.

up new businesses.

All the premises set up in the first and second phases within the SIC perimeter have been occupied and the JIEC has received applications to set up 70 new industrial projects in the past 10 months. Suheimat said.

He said that applications came from expatriates and Jordanians living in the country who wished to set up projects in cooperation with Arab and foreign companies.

The SIC, which was established in 1980, provides facilities for investors, infrastructure services and utilities, and has a vocational training centre set up with the help of the European Community to turn out skilled workers for the

industrial projects.

"Since the government issued its economic measures last August, there has been a noticeable increase in the demand to set up industrial businesses in the country," Suheimat noted.

In February this year, Suheimat announced that there was no room left at SIC for further projects and that a new industrial city is being launched in the northern city of Irbid.

He said that applications came from expatriates and Jordanians

in Irbid.

In 1988, the SIC witnessed the start of 57 industries against six in 1982. This prompted the JIEC to embark on the second stage which is now also full, Suheimat noted.

He said that different products ranging from electrical appliances and medical to processed foodstuffs and furniture are manufactured at the SIC.

Eid Al Adha falls on June 13

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Muheilan announced that Tuesday, June 4 was the first day of Thul Hijja, and accordingly Thursday, 10th Thul Hijja, corresponding to June 13 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice).

In a statement issued Tuesday Muheilan congratulated His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Royal Has-

sein family, in addition to both the Arab and Islamic Worlds on this occasion.

Khazraji appointed consultant for national population committee

AMMAN (Petra; J.T.) — Mr. Denis Bauchard, who was appointed ambassador to Jordan to replace Mr. Patrick Leclercq, has arrived in Amman on June 29.

Born in 1936, Bauchard has a Bachelor of Law degree and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies. A former student of the National School for Civil Service, Bauchard was posted in Beirut (financial attaché for Near East and Middle East from 1966 to 1968) and in New York (financial counsellor at the U.N. French mission from 1978 to 1982).

He has been a special assistant to the Minister of Economy and Finance (1974-1976) and deputy-assistant Secretary of the Treasury (1976). He was recently in

Jordan Times

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Handle with care

AT A TIME when Algeria has taken an historic step toward multi-party democracy, Sudan has made a dramatic decision in the wake of its military coup to abolish all political parties, which were lately blamed for the malaise, suffering and indecision in the country. The fate of political parties in the Arab World, as elsewhere in the developing countries, is always in jeopardy as long as the formation of such parties is not based on solid foundations. This phenomenon is of particular interest and relevance to Jordan in view of the decision to hold general elections in the country before the end of this year.

Many prospective Jordanian voters are already raising the issue about the need to establish political parties in order to give the anticipated elections more credence. At the same time Jordan's best interests calls for prudence and caution in treading this new democratic path lest we also fall victim to the phenomenon of ebh and flow in multi-party democracy that so many developing countries have experienced. It is, therefore, much better to move slowly and surely in the direction of multi-party system of democracy than to take a giant leap forward that is fraught with danger and the probability of major setbacks and reversals.

There is no doubt that elections and an operational parliamentary system call for the creation of political parties. In this context, the fundamental issue will always remain: What kind and how many? In determining the kind of parties that should be promoted one must always keep in mind that such parties should emanate from the country itself and have the interest of the country and the Jordanian people at heart. For example, there is no doubt that any party which has allegiance to interests outside the country must be regarded as hostile and therefore illegal.

Likewise, the number of parties that should be allowed is very critical. No one in his right mind desires a proliferation of political parties that are likely to disrupt the nation's cohesion, particularly if their nature is unconstitutional. It would be wise to start the process of political parties with two parties that could enjoy maximum consensus from the electorate. It is damaging to the welfare and future of democracy to tolerate splinter parties that could further exacerbate the unity of the people.

Having said that, the paramount objective must always be the ability to foster and promote honest differences of opinion that are motivated by a sincere desire to offer alternative views on how to best serve the country. The country must work diligently to create a culture for varied views and opinions in which one shade of opinion would not treat the opposing opinions as treacherous. Last but not least, one must keep in mind that people can only reach the stage of responsible democracy through experience. We are glad that the country is picking up where it has left off in the development of a viable and operational parliamentary democracy.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on King Hussein's two days of tours of military positions and his meetings with the troops and their commanders. The paper said that the King is keen on following closely the development of the Armed Forces and their training programmes. His addresses to the troops in the training fields and his encouragement for them to double their efforts to defend the Arab homeland are part of his ongoing endeavour to maintain a solid front in the face of external dangers, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein has stressed the importance of protecting the national soil and the need to offer sacrifice along the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy. Defending the motherland and backing the Palestinian people's effort to achieve freedom is a national duty as handed down to Jordan from the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who led the way for the Arab Nation's freedom and unity, the paper added. It said that the King's meetings with his troops are bound to infuse further enthusiasm in the men and encourage them to exert strenuous efforts in their training and be prepared for any eventuality.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily describes Moscow's attempts to solve the Lebanese problem as very wise and a step in the right direction. Mahmoud Rimawi says that Gorbachev's visit to Paris starting Tuesday is bound to be exploited for discussing major world issues; and the Lebanese problem is most likely to be discussed with the French president since it is a real cause of tension in the Middle East area. The writer says that the United States had tried its hand and failed in finding a solution, largely because it does not support the idea of Israeli troops' withdrawal from southern Lebanon, something which Moscow insists on being achieved as part of a package deal to end the crisis. The writer says that Gorbachev and Mitterrand are most likely to discuss the Lebanese question, especially in the wake of a visit to Moscow by an Arab League mediation committee which sought Soviet assistance in ending the problem. Rimawi also notes that the Arabs have succeeded in involving friendly nations like the Soviet Union and France in real attempts to find an end to the ordeal of the Lebanese people.

Al Dustour daily commented on a statement by an Israeli military intelligence report which has said that it was not possible for the Israeli army to put an end to the ongoing intifada in the occupied Arab territories. The paper noted that despite this report Israeli politicians are maintaining an iron fist policy against the Palestinian people and resorting to new means and new methods in terrorism in an attempt to stifle the spirit of the Palestinian resistance. The paper noted that the fact that the U.N. Security Council has held several meetings to discuss the situation reflects the international community's total rejection of the criminal methods and the atrocities committed in the occupied lands. But, it said, that the politicians in Tel Aviv are turning a deaf ear to all the protests and all the reports, and they are going ahead with their evil plans to subdue the Palestinians and end their revolt.

ECOLIGHT

Dinar vs. dollar — three markets, five rates

THE governor of the Central Bank of Jordan last Thursday declared that as of July 1 the bank would intervene in the market to stabilise the Jordan dinar. Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabus said the bank will siphon some of the excess demand in the market for U.S. dollars in order to prevent the escalation of the dollar value vis-a-vis the dinar.

The task of stabilising is not easy. There are three markets for the Jordan dinar with five different prices. Three of the prices are effective, and two exist only on paper.

The three geographical markets in which dinars and dollars are being exchanged are Jordan, the occupied territories, and the Gulf. Each has its own supply and demand conditions, but they all interact after a two to three-day long, depending on the volume of exchange and the speed at which information travels.

In the occupied territories, the exchange rate varies up and down depending on the mood of the dinar holders. People there used to hold dinars as the better currency. It served them as a source of value. When they read that their hard-earned savings could be subjected to further depreciation, they try to

hedge by buying dollars. Moreover, the Israeli authorities, who used to accumulate dinars as a "hard currency" in comparison with theirs, are now dumping Jordan dinars.

Jordanian expatriates holding dinars in the Gulf or in Jordan are not buying more dinars here. They are either spending their deposits with Jordanian banks, or buying dinars in the Gulf at tempting rates. As long as the official rate in Jordan is below the dollar rate in the Gulf, they will certainly buy their dinars outside Jordan.

In Jordan, there are three prevailing rates. There is the official rate, which the Central Bank declares everyday in accordance with a given basket of currencies. This means that the JD-dollar rate is determined exogenously — independent of supply and demand conditions in the country. The second rate is what the banking system is charging for the dollars they sell. Since banks are willing to buy only at the Central Bank price and sell at the official price plus certain charges, they will attract only dollar buyers, not sellers. Thus, they do not have many dollars to sell. Therefore, the two prices of the Central Bank and the banking

system exist only in name. They do not represent actual markets.

The real dollar market is the unofficial one, where buyers and sellers of dollars make deals directly without the banks' intermediation. The demand for dollars in this market is at present for transactional purposes, not for speculation. People want the dollars to use them. This demand is in effect a residual demand, because buyers resort to it only after they fail to get their dollars from banks at the cheaper rates.

The step taken by the Central Bank, therefore, is in the right direction. It is intended to enliven the commercial banks' dollar market and ease the pressure on the unofficial one. If successful, this step will convince people with dollars to sell them to banks and those abroad may stop selling JDs. Things however may not be that easy.

Unless the Central Bank finds ways and means to replenish its dollar assets to back its intervention policy, the whole situation may be worsened. Yet, both the governor and the minister of finance seem to be confident that dollars will be coming. If this is the case, there is room for cautious optimism.

By Jawad Ameen

As Jordan prepares for parliamentary election:

Does the law conform with the Constitution?

By Najwa Najjar and
Rania Atalla

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — As Jordan slowly gears up for the resumption of parliamentary life, citizens look with cautious optimism to the first general elections in 22 years — expected to take place before the end of the year — as a reopening of one of the main venues of popular participation.

Jordanians, who over the past two decades experienced only a brief spell of four-years of parliamentary life, are eager for a full return to parliamentary representation that would enable them to exercise their right to government.

Aspirations of Jordanians who were under the age of 18 when the last general elections were held in 1967, or those who are now in their 20s and have never had the chance to vote, remain focused on how they could participate in the country's affairs and on who represents their fears, concerns and demands in the Kingdom's decision-making process.

One Jordanian citizen summed up the national feeling. "Elections are a national and constitutional necessity whereby the people, through their elected representatives, can ensure that their concerns and problems as well as their aspirations reach the authorities, and that they are able to exercise their right to oversee the government and hold it accountable for its actions."

Little doubt exists among Jordanians that their right to participate in the Kingdom's decision-making process is clearly guaranteed in the Constitution.

"The nation is the source of authorities," reads article 24 of the 1952 Constitution, which vests the Kingdom's legislative power in both the King and bicameral parliament — the appointed Upper House (Senate) and the elected Lower House of representatives.

Nonetheless, ex-parliamentarians and lawyers say this constitutional right has been overshadowed by the 1986 election law. A number of its main provisions, they contend, violate the Constitution.

Amendments considered

While amendments to the law

are being studied by a legal committee of the Ministry of Interior, debate among ex-parliamentarians and lawyers remains focused on what they see as unproportional representation of citizens in some constituencies, inconsistency in constituency divisions, and the banning of candidates belonging to "illegal" political parties.

The 1986 law, which has not been tried out, is based on the 1960 election law with a few amendments which increased the House number of seats to 142, equally divided between the East and West Banks, and allocated one seat for each of the 11 Palestinian refugee camps in the East Bank.

The law was further amended by the government of Zaid Al Rifai in April this year. The amendments, which were passed in the absence of Parliament, reduced the number of seats to 72, abolishing West Bank representation in view of Jordan's decision to dismantle legal and administrative ties with the occupied territory in July 1988.

Further amendments to the law being considered will probably involve increasing the number of seats in certain areas, most notably, Amman, lowering of the voting age to 18 and doing away with the mandatory voting identification card.

The committee is also looking into the possibility of widening the constituencies whereby each of the Kingdom's eight governorates forms a separate constituency, and modifying candidacy eligibility conditions which, in their present form, prevent any individual belonging to an "illegal" political party from running for the elections.

The contentions that the representation system is unproportional and the calls for political parties and slates in elections are not necessarily shared by all ex-parliamentarians. Many of them say that the system in place in Jordan is the right one for the Kingdom and find little need for widening the constituencies or for allowing for political parties, per se, to take part in the election process.

However, those who agreed to talk to the Jordan Times on the record strongly disagreed, and raised questions over many aspects of the provisions of the election law.

They contend that the distribution of constituencies is not based on pure demographic factors, but rather on sectarian, racial and tribal considerations, which, they say, violate the Constitution.

Constituencies

"The division of constituencies does not reflect the importance of political representation of the people, but furthers the interest of certain sides," according to former parliamentarian Abdullah Akayleh.

The Irbid Governorate, for example, is divided into six districts with a total number of 18 seats: two for the district of Beni Kanana, one for the district of Al Quora, one for the North Ghor district, two for the Jerash district, three for the Ajloun district and eight for Irbid city.

According to Akayleh, these smaller divisions allow for the continued domination of the political scene by tribal, sectarian, and ethnic considerations in elections at a sub-district level in the governorate.

Rafiq Al Juneidi, a leading lawyer, supports Akayleh's view and says that one of the main pillars of parliamentary representation as stipulated in the

Constitution calls on a parliamentarian to represent the whole nation rather than the interest of one voter or a group of voters.

The individual electoral system presently in place violates this principle, he says, "since nominees run only in their constituency, they are concerned primarily with the interest of the people they represent, and not with the interest of the nation as a whole." In this context, he says, having one list for the whole Kingdom would eliminate the problem. If that is not possible, constituencies should be drawn according to demographic features of the eight governorates.

Many others also believe that the number of seats allocated to some constituencies are not proportional to the number of inhabitants in those areas.

Another renowned lawyer, Ibrahim Bakr, argues that the principle of equality in the Constitution has not been adhered to in the distribution of parliamentary seats.

"The number of parliamentary seats allocated to Amman and Zarqa is not proportional to the population density in these two governorates," says Bakr.

The governorate of Amman, which, according to 1986-1987 Department of Statistics figures has a population of 1,203,000, has been allocated 19 seats while the city of Amman alone, with a population of 923,870, has been allocated seven seats.

According to Juneidi, this means that one member of parliament represents every 130,000 people inside Amman while every 27,000 people are represented by one member in areas outside the capital.

Only those who have obtained a certificate of good conduct from the security apparatus — candidates approved by the government — will be able to run," Juneidi says.

Since the constitution does not prohibit the formation of political parties, the government's right to refuse an application for the establishment of a political party without being contested in a higher court of justice "violates the right guaranteed by Article 142 of the Constitution to establish a political party," according to Bakr.

Former deputy Yousef Athem agrees. "Let it be up to the people to decide who does or does not represent them; regardless of what a deputy's ideology is," Athem says.

Political parties

The strongest point of contention revolves around the Article 18H of the Electoral Law which prevents any candidate belonging to an "illegal political party" to run for elections. The article defines an "illegal" political party as any party or grouping with principles, aims and goals contradicting

'1992 Europe —necessity, not luxury'

By Hobart Rowen

WASHINGTON — Americans make a mistake to think of the "Europe 1992" concept as merely a drive for a single integrated market, better able to compete with Japan and the United States because it will have dropped internal barriers to trade.

After talking to French, English, German, Dutch, Italian and other Europeans in the past few weeks it becomes clearer that for some of its ardent advocates, Europe 1992 is also a crusade for the transformation of Europe into a single cultural and political entity.

Given national pride and concepts, a "transnational European culture" will be years away — if ever happens. But those dedicated to the 1992 concept think that European unity must go beyond just the "single market." Helmut Sihler, chief executive officer of Henkel, a Dusseldorf chemicals manufacturer, put it this way: "This business of Europe is more than business. Literally translated from the old Greek, Europe means 'far-looking.' So let's not be shortsighted. Europe must have a solid economic base, and the prospects for this are good. It must also have a cultural, social and political perspective."

Jean-Louis Beffa, boss of the French conglomerate Saint-Gobain, sees the transcultural urgency in terms of people: Instead of having various offices scattered around Europe staffed with people of differing nationalities, he envisioned a headquarters based on a truly Europe-wide intermixing. That, he thinks, would shift Saint-Gobain management from a French to a European focus.

Sihler notes that as cultural unity is sought, some differences

inevitably will remain: "Spaniards will stay Spaniards and Germans, Germans, German co-determination," the shared union-management relationship, "is not an export item; German training methods might be. We Europeans have entered a continuous learning process. For this we need the right attitudes: openness, diligence, flexibility."

The biggest pan-European of them all is Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission. His ultimate goals include a single European currency and monetary policy run by a single European central bank — plus a European

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YMA TO A CLOUD

Mohammad Nasrallah shows potential in his first one-man exhibition

By Nelly Lame
Special to the Jordan Times

MMAN — The French Cultural centre is the venue of a curiously interesting exhibition of oil paintings by Mohammad Nasrallah. The predominant theme is that of the Intifada and the Palestinian cause. A highly emotive style with an obvious depth of feeling centered around few recurring elements: The soil, the land, oman and horses. These symbolise his homeland, Palestine, and resistance to the occupation.

The collection of paintings follows a sequence that illustrates the poems of his brother Ibrahim Nasrallah, the titles bearing musical overtones, are "hymns" — nature, hymns to man, to the land.

An overall monochromatic tone conveys not the least monotony since Nasrallah has a very sensitive way of rendering dark and light areas, and his emphasis lies mostly on textural effects that he seems to handle like a master. Now this being his first exhibition, we will not expect much of an artist whose background is a few months education at the National Institute of Art in Amman. Yet he has received great acclaim from other artists

and from the Jordanian public and questions are being asked as to whether he deserves this admiration.

As has been mentioned before, Nasrallah is able to create textures that almost defy nature in their realism. His rendering of soil gives you the feeling that you can pick up a handful of it from the painting, the soil seems so real! This is truly admirable. To add to this he forms the ripples in the sand allowing just the right amount of light to penetrate; an almost photographic rendering. Yet at times his excessive emotions allow him to get carried away with his rendering to texture, which, he believes, contributes to the expressive power of his paintings. His rendering of straw, realistically textured with the tip of a palette knife, often overlaps the heads of his valiant figures. Even bodily proportions are tampered with for expression's sake.

He has been advised, as were other much more advanced artists, to create a balance between realism and stylisation or abstraction as well as to go through an intensive study of anatomy.

The artist uses mature elements of art but is inconsistent in

Genes implicated in Multiple Sclerosis risk

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

EW YORK — A gene of the disease-fighting immune system may help make people susceptible to Multiple Sclerosis, suggest findings that scientists say may help in developing treatments.

Researchers found that siblings to both had the disease also tended to inherit the same version of the gene from their parents, said study co-author Stephen Hauser.

Hauser, Director of the autoimmunity Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, reports on the study in the last issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

A study published earlier this year also implicated the gene in the disease.

The new finding will make no immediate difference in therapy, as scientists should be able to develop better treatments as they learn more about what causes the disease, Hauser said.

Multiple Sclerosis is an often crippling condition that can produce weakness, difficulty in coordination, dizziness and loss of balance. Scientists have long known that genes play some role in making people susceptible.

The disease occurs when the body, for unknown reasons, attacks nerve tissue. Research

has suggested that white blood cells called T-cells play a critical role in the onslaught.

As part of the immune system, T-cells normally fight invading germs. But perhaps they attack nerve tissue instead if something goes wrong with their mechanism for choosing targets, researchers say.

The mechanism involves a structure on the cell surface called a receptor. So Hauser and his colleagues decided to study a gene that helps determine the architecture of the receptor.

Each person carries two versions of the receptor gene, one inherited from each parent. Researchers found that in 15 of 40 pairs of siblings with multiple Sclerosis, each member of the pair had inherited the same two versions from the parents.

Only 10 pairs would be expected to share both parental versions just by chance, the researchers said. Three pairs in the study shared neither version, far fewer than the 10 pairs one would expect by chance.

In contrast, multiple sclerosis patients shared the same versions with healthy brothers or sisters only about as often as one would expect by chance.

Calculations showed the gene is not the only determinant of susceptibility. Other genes and non-genetic factors also appear to be involved, Hauser said in a telephone interview.

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Speech of congratulations of President Kim Il Sung at the opening ceremony of the Pyongyang Festival.

Youth and students, be pioneers of times'

PYONGYANG (KCNA) — The great leader comrade Kim Il Sung, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a speech of congratulations at the opening ceremony of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students "Youth and students, be pioneers of the times." The speech reads in full:

Dear delegates of young people and students, esteemed heads of party and state from many countries and guests from many foreign lands, comrades and friends, I am pleased at seeing the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students having been open in Pyongyang in a grand manner and, on behalf of all the Korean people, extend hearty congratulations to the delegates of the young people and students and to the delegates of international and regional organisations, who have come with the noble ideals of

the festival from the five continents.

At this impressive ceremony which is vibrating with the youthful spirit and overflowing with the feelings of friendship and fraternity, I would like to bid a warm welcome to the honorary guests at the festival and all our friends from foreign lands and send fervent greetings to the delegate of the "national council of student representatives" from South Korea and compatriots from abroad.

At this moment, the attention of the world is focussed on Pyongyang where the torchlight of the festival is flaring up. This momentous, grand festival of the young people and students of the new generation, who are the pride of our age and the future of mankind, is being held magnificently in the capital of our country. This is a great, auspicious event for our nation as well as an event of common jubilation for humanity that aspires to Chajusong.

This is the age of independence, and the young people of our times are a highly proud generation who have the noblest mission. The honourable mission to press on with the forward movement of the age of Chajusong and to create a new world aspired to by mankind has been entrusted precisely to you, the young people of our times.

Mankind is now entering a magnificent, historic age of creating a new world of independence, peace and friendship by breaking with the old world of aggression and war, domination and subjugation which have caused untold miseries and sufferings for ages. The imperialists are clamouring that the outmoded order of aggression and plunder, the law of the jungle, is unavoidable to the human society. This is a preposterous allegation to justify their aggressive and predatory nature. Man's social nature is not based on antagonism, enmity and bellicosity, but on the desire to lead an independent life as the master of the world, as the master of one's own destiny, through mutual cooperation. An independent world which is free from aggression and war, domination and subjugation, and in which the people of all lands equally develop and prosper, is the world which accords with man's reason and with his nature.

Humanity's cause of building an independent new world can only emerge victorious through the struggle against the old forces which stand in the way of historical advance.

The old forces will become more cunning and wicked as their doomsday approaches. This is a historical lesson that the people must never forget. Today the reactionaries who are opposed to historical progress are continuing with aggression and intervention in the guise of "peace" and "cooperation". Whenever an opportunity presents itself, they throw off their guise and resort to overt aggression and intervention. It is none other than the old forces of history that have imposed nearly half a century of the tragedy of division upon the Korean people who had lived as a single nation for ages. It is none other than these old forces that have violently put down so strong a desire of the South Korean Youth and Students to participate in the Pyongyang Festival.

The young people and students of our times who have strong sense of justice and aspire to a new world can never allow themselves to shut their eyes to the brutal fact of today. They must fight against the reactionaries who are opposed to historical progress and must be the pioneers of the times in the noble cause of building an independent new world.

The young people and students must fight resolutely against those who exploit and oppress people and subordinate and subjugate other nations by force, and against those who are trying to corrupt the youth and other people mentally and morally and make them victims of aggression and nuclear war. The young people and students ought to find the worth of life in the sacred struggle for their countries, their nations and the common prosperity of mankind, and see that their ideals come true through this struggle.

In order to fulfil their noble mission entrusted by the times and mankind, the young people and students must strengthen the ties of international friendship and solidarity.

The youth and students of all countries must unite rock-firm under the banner of independence, peace and friendship, the common ideals of mankind, regardless of their ideas, systems, religions, political views, nationalities and races. No force can ever check the powerful ranks of the young people of the age of Chajusong who are advancing shoulder to shoulder in close unity.

Through the unprecedentedly arduous and bitter struggle, the Korean youth have become fully aware of the honourable mission devolving upon the young people of the age of Chajusong, and they have always fulfilled with credit their duty to their country and their fellow people. The young Koreans are being held in high trust and loved warmly by the people for the distinguished services they have rendered and for the brilliant exploits they have accomplished in the hard-fought struggle to achieve national liberation and safeguard the independence of the fatherland and in the worthwhile struggle to build a new Socialist country.

With an unshakable confidence in their cause and with an unbreakable will, the Korean youth and students will in the future too, fulfil their honourable mission in the struggle for the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the fatherland. They will also make a positive contribution to the noble common cause of mankind in strong unity with the youth and students of other countries.

I am convinced that this Pyongyang festival will be a glorious stage for the youth of the age of Chajusong, a lively stage which demonstrates the strong unity of the Youth and Students the world over, displays their resourcefulness and exalts their honour.

Delegates of the Youth and Students, the torchlight which is brightening your festival venue symbolises the hope, enthusiasm and fighting spirit of the youth and students of our times.

Wishing a happy future to you, youth of the world and masters of the days to come, I hope that the torchlight of the Pyongyang Festival will shine for ever, illuminating the road to victory for the youth and students of our time.

Victory and glory to the Youth and Students of our times who are advancing towards a bright future excel.

Long live independence, peace and friendship.



Japanese show to highlight the opening of 'Jerash 1989'

By Mariam M. Shahin

AMMAN — The Shochiku Company Limited. The company was founded as a unique, all-female troupe which performs different kinds of dances forms including classical, modern, folkloric and ballet as part of a wider theatrical performance.

The themes of the performances vary; some depict historical events which include Buddhist customs and traditional folklore portraying everyday life in the Japanese cities and countryside. Other dances are more in the style of revue troupes and ballet.

Today the company is considered to be one of the best and most prestigious in Japan.

Although the company tours the major regions of Japan on a semi-regular basis, it is considered a privilege to have the group's first in the Middle East.

The group was founded in 1928 by the owner of the famous Grand Kabuki Com-

pany, the Shochiku Company Limited. The company was founded as a unique, all-female troupe which performs different kinds of dances forms including classical, modern, folkloric and ballet as part of a wider theatrical performance.

The themes of the performances vary; some depict historical events which include Buddhist customs and traditional folklore portraying everyday life in the Japanese cities and countryside. Other dances are more in the style of revue troupes and ballet.

After stunning audiences while touring most of Europe, South-East Asia, South America, China, the Soviet Union and the United States, the SKD has come to the Jerash Festival to present some of Japan's best to Jordanians.

The 42-member group, which includes 30 dancers, arrived in Amman Monday evening for a one-week stay in Jordan. SKD performances are scheduled at Jordan's South Theatre at 2130 Wednesday (July 5) and Thursday (July 6).

Its dynamic scenic stage sets



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الجامعة

World Bank sees low savings as main prosperity hindrance

WASHINGTON (AP) — More savings is what the planet needs to bring more prosperity, the World Bank said Tuesday in its review of overall development.

The World Bank is the largest source of aid for Third World countries, lending more than \$21 billion in the past 12 months.

"The fundamental problem is a shortage of world saving," said Stanley Fischer, one of the bank's vice presidents and its chief economist.

"We focus very much in economics on the U.S. budget deficit, but that's only one aspect of the shortage of world saving — we estimate it uses about eight per cent of total saving," he noted.

Fischer, born in what is now Zambia, is a U.S. citizen.

Because people in the United States do not save enough to meet the borrowing needs of both government and business, the U.S. government has to borrow from the savings of other countries. The U.S. government's demand for money helps keep interest rates high.

Eliminating the U.S. deficit entirely would not be enough to get the rates as far down as he wants to see, Fischer added. He went

on to say that countries all over the world need to encourage saving.

The organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) finds that of 19 major countries, Britons, Finns, Dutch, Norwegians and Swedes saves less than U.S. households did last year. Japanese, West Germans, French, Swiss, Belgians, Spaniards and Italians saved a lot more.

Bill Brannigan, a spokesman for the bank, said the reasoning goes this way:

"Greater savings make more money available. When the supply of money increases, its price goes down. The price paid for money is called interest. Lower interest makes it easier for business to borrow for the expansion that creates more goods and more jobs."

Reducing interest rates may be the one most important thing that rich countries can do for the Third World, Fischer said.

"The one percentage point rise

in the real interest rate (last year) increased the burden on the heavily indebted countries by as much as the financial resources put into the Brady plan are likely to reduce it," he said.

He said more would come out of the plan for debt reduction proposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady than the \$20 to \$25 billion to be lent by official sources.

These are the bank, its sister organisation the International Monetary Fund (both owned by the same 151 governments), and the government of Japan. But he said he could not give a figure for the amount that should be furnished by the commercial banks.

Brady and Barber Conable, the World Bank's president, as well as other high officials have been pressing the commercial banks to be more forthcoming.

Fischer was presenting the World Bank's 1989 "World Development Report."

It found 1988 a good year for high income countries — steady growth of production and low inflation for the sixth year in a row. It said the conditions were favourable for expansion in the Third World too, in large part because of the stability and ex-

pansion in the wealthier countries.

But the Third World had an uneven year. Countries on the eastern rim of Pacific did well.

"But in Africa and Latin America hundreds of millions of people have seen economic decline and regression rather than growth and development," the report said.

In some countries in Latin America real (income) is less than it was a decade ago. In some African countries it was less than it was 20 years ago," it noted.

The report calls for basic changes in policy by many Third World countries. Though Fischer spoke of the need for lower rates, the report said the past 25 years have shown that governments which allow interest rates to rise higher than other prices have had less inflation and greater and more productive investment.

He said in an interview that when interest rates are lower than other prices, the result is a "negative" interest rate that gives business people no incentive to put their money into new projects.

"The rate should be positive by two or three per cent," he said. "In this country we've had real interest rates of five per cent or more."

The establishment of the trade centres will be in implementation of a resolution taken by the Higher Committee's earlier meeting held in Amman, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf who led Jordan's side to the Tuesday meeting.

He said that the joint committee's second and last day was devoted to discussing other matters related to joint projects, the setting up of trade fairs to help promote the sale of national products in the two countries and facilities to be given for each side in these respects.

The trade centres, according to Saqqaf, are bound to increase the volume of exchanged trade between Syria and Jordan and contribute to pan-Arab economic integration.

The joint committee which is co-chaired by ministers of industry and trade in the two countries opened the meeting here Monday. A spokesman said that the agenda covers bilateral cooperation in trade, industry, tourism, information and agriculture, in addition to progress in the work of joint ventures in land transport, energy and electricity.

Also Tuesday, Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Iman and his Syrian counterpart Antoine Jubran visited a joint Jordanian-Syrian textile plant in the Suweida governorate and inspected work at the plant. Both ministers made statements underlining their countries' concern to boost joint ventures. Later, they met with local government officials and visited archaeological sites in the region.

The two ministers Monday led their countries' respective teams to the joint committee talks in Damascus.

EC inflation rises to 5.4%

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The EC's 12-month inflation rate was 5.4 per cent in May, up from 5.3 per cent in April and 3.2 per cent in May last year, the EC statistical bureau Eurostat has announced.

The collapse of the coffee pact is yet another nail in the coffin of price-support agreements, "one commodity analyst said.

A number of major industrialised countries believe prices should not be protected

lost them market share.

Analysts have already said they expect the suspension of the pact to bring large supplies of the increasingly-popular mild Arabica coffee onto the market and to hit robust prices harder.

There was also disagreement over producers selling coffee to countries outside the agreement — mainly East Bloc and Middle Eastern states — at cheaper rates than those paid by member countries.

Falling prices mean additional problems for the producer countries, mainly indebted African and Latin American states.

African coffee producers fear the collapse will cut their meagre foreign exchange earnings still further.

Only a few countries, such as Kenya and Tanzania, which sell the premium Arabica beans

favoured by the increasingly choosy consumers of Europe and North America, reckon they will cope.

"With the weight of coffee in the world it seems to me that a price war could break out," said Tony Wood, the director of Rwandex, a private coffee-trading firm in Kigali, the capital of the small Central African state of Rwanda.

Analysts said the demise of the coffee accord leaves the rubber pact as the only commodity agreement still functioning to stabilise prices.

"The collapse of the coffee pact is yet another nail in the coffin of price-support agreements," one commodity analyst said.

The Eurostat price index, which uses 1985 as a base of 100, stood at a provisional 116.0 at the end of May.

In May, EC inflation was highest in Denmark, at 0.7 per cent. Prices rose 0.6 per cent in Britain, 0.4 per cent in France, Italy, and Luxembourg, 0.3 per cent in Greece, 0.2 per cent in West Germany and Portugal, 0.1 per cent in Belgium and Spain and did not increase in the Netherlands.

Prices rose one per cent in Ireland over a three-month period, Eurostat said.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

GREEK FANS BURN RACE TRACK — Hundreds of angry Greeks fans set fire to race track stands and betting offices in Athens Monday night after an outsider won a horse race, police said Tuesday. They said fans burned the stands and three betting offices at the Athens race track, which will be closed for two months, after the horse Lito won a 20,000-dollar-race. No bets were placed on the horse. "We want our money back, the race was fixed," said Andreas Stamoulis, a fan who lost about \$3,000 in the race. Police said 15 people were arrested after the race. (R)

BRAZIL HELD TO THE WITH PERU — Heavily-favored Brazil was held to a scoreless tie with Peru in Salvador and Colombia beat Venezuela 4-2 Monday in the America Cup tournament, an important test before upcoming World Cup qualifying matches. Brazil, the only three-time champion of the World Cup, controlled the game from the outset and outshot Peru 11-0 in the first half. Brazil missed two good chances when Romario just fired wide of the net early in the half and Bebeto had a blast blocked by a Peruvian defender inside the penalty area near the mid-way point. The second half, which was delayed 27 minutes when part of the stadium's lighting system failed, was also completely dominated by Brazil but the team failed to capitalise on all of its scoring opportunities. The best chances came when Branco fired a shot that flew just over the top of the net at the 10 minute mark and then late in the game when Baltazar, who substituted for Romario, had a blast saved by Peru's goalie Pizziaga. (AP)

EVERY TAKES STEEPLECHASE RECORD — Olympic champion Paul Ereng looks set to follow Peter Koch into the world record books as the exciting Kenyans continue to dominate the European track season in Stockholm. Koch lowered compatriot Henry Ronzo's 11-year-old 3,000 metres steeplechase record to eight minutes 5.35 seconds at Monday's Stockholm Grand Prix. He then told reporters he had not even trained specifically for the steeplechase this season and was confident he could run faster. In the 800 metres Ereng abandoned his usual tactic of running at the back and forced the pace from the outset, showing a world record could be in his grasp even without the now obligatory pacemaker. After the race Ereng said his change in tactics had been deliberate. He had wanted to set a fast pace and added that a world record was possible even in an Olympic final. In an interview on the eve of the meeting, Ereng said any one of a number of runners could break Britain's Sebastian Coe's eight-year-old record of 1:41.73. (R)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 3

♦ Q 9 5

♦ J 7 4 2

♦ K 6 3

WEST

♦ 10 8 7 5 4

♦ 9 6

♦ 10 7 6 3

♦ K 8 4 2

♦ Void

♦ Q 10 9 6

♦ J 9 7 2

♦ 10 8 4

SOUTH

♦ K 2

♦ A 1

♦ A K 8 5 3

♦ A Q 5

The bidding:

South West North East

2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

To test your play technique, cover up the East and West hands and decide how you would play six no trump after a spade lead.

With 12 high-card points, North should jump to 6 NT regardless of whether your range is 21-23 or 22-24. There are enough assets in the combined holding to make a small slam a reasonable proposition, but a grand slam would be distinctly against the odds.

After a spade lead, your first task is to count your tricks. There are seven fast tricks in spades, hearts and clubs. If diamonds are 2-2, or the queen drops singleton, that suit will produce the five tricks you need for slam. But what if the suit breaks 3-1 or 4-0? In that case, you will

need the heart finesse to succeed. You can combine these chances if you go about matters in the right order. Which suit should you attack first?

If you tackle diamonds immediately and they break badly, you might not be able to recover. However, if you take the heart finesse and it succeeds, you will be able to survive even a 4-0 diamond split.

Win the first trick in dummy and take an immediate heart finesse. If that loses, you will have to bring in the diamonds without loss to make your contract. But if the heart finesse wins, as is the case here, you can afford a safety play in diamonds. Lead a low diamond and, if West plays low, insert the jack. Your contract is guaranteed whether that wins or loses, for the defenders can take no more than one diamond trick.

Where you gain is if West shows out on the first diamond and East captures the jack with the queen. Win the heart return (best), cross to dummy and lead the seven of diamonds for a finesse. When East covers, win and cross back to the table to repeat the diamond finesse. That assures four tricks in the suit and your slam is home.

Legal eagles pounce..

CINCINNATI (AP) — Text of the order signed Monday by judges Carl B. Rubin and Herman J. Weber of U.S. district court in Cincinnati in the case of Pete Rose V. A. Bartlett Giannatti, et al.: This matter is before the United States district court for the Southern district of Ohio, western division at Cincinnati, for consideration of all judge thereof, honourable S. Arthur Spiegel not available by absence from Suas district.

Defendant A. Bartlett Giannatti seeks to remove a matter from the common pleas court of Hamilton County, Ohio, to this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1146. While the undersigned entertain substantial doubt that this matter is removable to the United States district court, the technical requirements of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1446 appear to have been followed.

Plaintiff is not just another litigant. He is instead a baseball figure of national reputation closely identified with the Cincinnati Reds and the city of Cincinnati. Under such circumstances, it would appear advisable that it be transferred to a city of the southern district of Ohio other than Cincinnati.

Accordingly, the clerk of this court is directed to transfer this cause forthwith to the United States district court for the Southern district of Ohio, eastern division at Columbus, Ohio, for random draw among the resident judges thereof.

It is so ordered.

Carl B. Rubin, chief judge United States district court.

Hermann J. Walker, United States district court.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Mercury's own cycle places an emphasis on devotion to work, mental inquisitiveness, intuition, and a weakness for flattery and praise. Be yourself, regardless of influential circumstances.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A romantic situation has you breaking free from old patterns. Plunge into the social swirl and meet that special someone!

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Extra free time can be spent on personal projects or family fun. Connect with old friends by mail or phone. Plan a reunion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is advantageous to stay in the background and let plans mature. Get more rest and you will feel more romantic and social.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are relieved of emotional pressures that have influenced your behavior. Spontaneous activities fit your mood.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) When you tackle that new romantic flame, go easy! Using your enthusiasm wisely will help break the ice. Listen to your hunches.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Luck still supports your business adventures. Methodical efforts

work. Meetings with associates will turn out best in a social setting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find yourself a loner when the rest of the crowd does not show up. It is a great time in any case—especially when you feel sexy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Business activities have you worn out and ready for peace and quiet. Let family members know how you feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Social invitations may involve travel. Opportunities and career incentives can move you ahead in business endeavors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be agreeable if you desire the day to be a happy one. Focus on family responsibilities. Turn down evening invitations and get some rest.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Work can consume much of your energy today. You can avoid future health problems if you observe the rules for good physical fitness.

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work. Meetings with associates will turn out best in a social setting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find yourself a loner when the rest of the crowd does not show up. It is a great time in any case—especially when you feel sexy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Business activities have you worn out and ready for peace and quiet. Let family members know how you feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Social invitations may involve travel. Opportunities and career incentives can move you ahead in business endeavors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be agreeable if you desire the day to be a happy one. Focus on family responsibilities. Turn down evening invitations and get some rest.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Work can consume much of your energy today. You can avoid future health problems if you observe the rules for good physical fitness.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Luck still supports your business adventures. Methodical efforts

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CAPRICORN</

Yazov retains defence portfolio despite dissent

MOSCOW (AP) — The Supreme Soviet has reappointed Dmitri T. Yazov as defence minister despite some legislators' objections that he is too old and conservative, TASS news agency said.

Yazov, 65, whose rank is general of the army, received the required majority of votes in the house, the official agency said Monday.

He was appointed defence minister in May 1987, replacing Sergei Sokolov, who was fired after West German Mathias Rust evaded Soviet air defences and landed his light aircraft in Red Square.

"The main objections concerned the age of the candidate... (and) as it seemed to some members of the Supreme Soviet, his traditional way of thinking," TASS reported.

Others accused Yazov of paying too little attention to living conditions of soldiers, TASS said.

Several legislators said other generals were more qualified, including the head of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev, and Gen. Boris Goro-

mov, who commanded Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

During the stormy confirmation hearing, Yazov revealed that a half million cut in Soviet troop strengths pledged by President Mikhail Gorbachev in December would put the armed forces at 3.7 million — a million less than some Western estimates.

Yazov also said later in an interview with Radio Moscow that there was "no question of a coup" in the Soviet Union, rejecting what he said was "foreign and local speculation."

After a series of hostile speeches in the Supreme Soviet, Yazov failed to win an absolute majority in the 542-member legislature — until Monday the requirement for confirmation.

But the rules have been changed, allowing Yazov to secure reappointment with a simple majority of votes cast. Of the 434 deputies who attended, 256 voted for Yazov, 77 voted against and 66 abstained. The remainder apparently did not take part in the vote, which was by a show of hands.

Last Friday, Deputy Prime

Minister Vladimir Kamentsev failed to win confirmation after getting a majority of votes cast, but failing to reach the 272 needed for an absolute majority.

Under the new Soviet constitutional set-up, ministers nominated by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov have to be approved by parliament.

Explaining the change of the voting rules, TASS said: "A number of deputies are members of republican parliaments and their deputies combine activities in the Supreme Soviet with other official duties. That is why they cannot be present every day at meetings of the chamber."

In his speech, Yazov said there would be 3.7 million people in the Soviet armed forces after the troop cuts announced by Gorbachev. The cuts will be in two equal stages, the first by the end of this year, the second by the end of 1990.

The figure, which Yazov said included construction and other support units, is almost a million lower than an estimate by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).



Dmitri Yazov

the IISS put Soviet forces late last year at a 5.1 million — implying a fall to 4.6 million after the cut — including railway, labour, civil defence and Kommandatura troops. It was not clear from Yazov's remarks whether these were also included in his figure.

In his speech, Yazov put U.S. forces at 3.65 million including the National Guard, implying the two superpowers' forces would be roughly equal after the cuts.

The IISS put total U.S. forces at 2.16 million plus 577,000 National Guard and one million reservists.

Howe meets Hong Kong activists, boat people

HONG KONG (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, on the third day of a stormy visit to Hong Kong, dismayed political activists who said their meetings with him on demands for residency had achieved nothing.

Cliff Reese, a British businessman who heads a group of expatriates backing millions of Hong Kong Chinese calling for passport rights, told reporters after meeting Howe Tuesday: "I am very dubious that we have achieved anything."

"He gave us each two minutes to discuss a matter of life and death."

Howe also visited two camps for Vietnamese boat people and told reporters agreement was near with Vietnam on the forced repatriation of boat people not adjudged genuine refugees.

"We are well down that path. I believe the flow will be moving in the opposite direction quite soon," he said.

Hong Kong Chinese are demanding that Britain grant residence status to 3.25 million Hong Kong British passport holders in the event things go wrong when China regains sovereignty of the



Demonstrators, demanding the right of abode in Britain, stage a protest in Hong Kong

colony in 1997. Their fears have been intensified by the brutal military operation against pro-democracy protesters in China June 4 and subsequent repression.

Another activist who met Howe, Methodist pastor Lo Lung-Kwong, said: "It was a sudden invitation — he evidently did not plan on meeting the people. I was very disappointed, as he merely repeated what he said yesterday."

On Monday Howe slammed the door on hopes that Britain would offer refuge to Hong Kong people.

"I know the depths of your anxiety — it is your lives and livelihoods that are at stake... the plain fact is that there is simply no way that a British government could grant to several million people the right to come and live in Britain," Howe said in a speech.

On his visit to the camps, Howe diverted some of the anger and abuse which has been hurled at him so far during his visit, which started Sunday with a rowdy demonstration.

He told reporters at the Whitehead and Sek Kong air force base

that the length of time that a woman

detention centres that Britain and

nameless, more than 47,000 of whom are crammed into camps in

Hong Kong.

Solidarity formally enters legislature

WARSAW (Agencies) — An independent opposition entered an East Bloc legislature for the first time since the late 1940s Tuesday, as Solidarity and Communist-backed lawmakers took a common oath of office.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the ruling Communist Party, watched the ceremony from seats near the front of the Sejm, or parliament. The ceremony was broadcast live on state television.

"We are starting the term of the Sejm, which may pass into history as a great one. It can fulfill the expectations of our society," said Zbigniew Rudnicki, the 60-year-old senior member of the chamber who had presided over the session.

"The eyes of 38 million Poles that live in the country are directed to our changes. More lively still beat the hearts of Poles all over the world from Chicago to Kazakhstan," he said.

Rudnicki called on each deputy by name. They promised to work for Poland's good in a oath that deflected a reference to its "socialist development."

Solidarity supporters claim 161 seats in the 460-member Sejm and 98 seats in a new 100-member Senate that was to meet later

Tuesday. The two chambers will form the national assembly.

Election of a new speaker was the first order of business of the new Sejm. The Peasant Party, a communist ally, proposed sociologist Mikolaj Kozakiewicz. The opposition's first formal motion came when political essayist Adam Michnik, a 20-year opposition veteran, suggested "there be another candidate so that our first election in our Sejm could be an election and not just a vote again."

As the Peasant Party was previously guaranteed the post by an arbitration committee set up to monitor round-table accords that resulted in the partially free elections, no other candidates for the job were proposed. Kozakiewicz was elected 293-81, with 60 abstentions.

"I want to be speaker for the whole Sejm, and not any of its parts," said Kozakiewicz, one of

two government-backed candidates running unopposed on a 35-member national list who received more than 50 per cent of

the vote needed to be elected.

"I will perform this function... not bowing before the mighty rulers, ideologies or institutions," Kozakiewicz told the chamber.

The Solidarity free trade union movement has announced that law Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski will serve as speaker of the senate.

The Senate's right of amendment and veto over Sejm legislation guarantees that the parliament will no longer be a rubber-stamp body.

Deputies applauded as Walesa and Jaruzelski walked into the chamber together and sat on their party front benches.

Many top Communists from the previous parliament were absent after failing to win the required 50 per cent vote for election on an unopposed list of 35 VIPs last month.

They included Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski, Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak and several other members of the outgoing government who watched the proceedings from the galleries.

On the floor of the house, veteran dissidents like Adam Michnik, who has spent years in jail for opposing Poland's Communist rulers, looked jubilant.

COLUMN

'Loo patrol' catches non-flushers

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore's "loo patrol" on the lookout for public toilet users who fail to flush, have nabbed the first offender under a new flushing law.

Health inspectors have booked 17 people so far under the law which came into force July 1 making it an offence not to flush after using a public toilet, an Environment Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

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NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus, historically known as the "island of love," has the highest marriage rate in Europe and one of the lowest illegitimate birth rates, an official report said Monday. The marriage rate in the Greek Cypriot sector of the island increased to 9.5 per 1,000 head of population in 1985-88 from 9.6 in the previous four-year period, the government's demographic report for 1988 said.

"This is still the highest in Europe, reflecting the importance of the institution of marriage in Cyprus," it said. The Greek Cypriot majority totals some 570,000. The statistics do not cover an estimated 130,000 Turkish Cypriots and Turkish settlers in the northern part of the island.

But PAN vowed to challenge the results in Cuidad Juarez and try to force a new election.

In Michoacan, the PRI said it won in 11 of the 18 districts and was losing in at least four districts.

The leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party, or PRD, did not claim victory but released figures showing that with about half the vote counted, Ruffo's party said he was leading with nearly 85 per cent of the vote counted.

If he wins, Ruffo, a former mayor of Ensenda, will become the first opposition governor in Mexico since the PRI was founded and took power 60 years ago.

The PRI also said it won a majority of the Baja California's state legislature's 19 seats, but gave no figures.

The PRI said it swept elections for state legislatures in the states

Cries of foul in Mexico polls

MEXICALI, Mexico (AP) — Opposition leaders have accused Mexico's long-governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of committing fraud in state elections that officials promised

of committing fraud in state elections that officials promised

would be clean.

The charges came Monday after the party, PRI in Spanish, claimed victories in four of the five states that held elections Sunday for new legislators and mayors.

By law, election boards have until July 9 to announce official returns.

Elections were held in the states of Michoacan, Chihuahua, Baja California, Campeche and Zacatecas.

In the Baja California Gubernatorial race, Margarita Ortega,

of Campeche and Zacatecas and won in 17 of the 18 districts in Chihuahua state, including Ciudad Juarez and the state capital, the city of Chihuahua.

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"As a marine I was taught to fight — and fight hard — for as long as it takes to prevail," the 45-year-old former marine said on the day of the verdict.

"We will continue this battle — and with the support and prayers of the American people I will be fully vindicated."

North's attorney have since sought in vain to have the convictions overturned or to get a new trial, arguing that he lacked criminal intent and was doing the bidding of superiors.

He was acquitted on nine other charges including lying to Congress.

North is the first of four Iran-contra defendants to be tried.

"There is tender foliage up there. It would be real easy to fly it," Roberts said. He said the screens will reduce sunlight hitting the tree by 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

"We're coming into a real stressful period for the tree. We can expect upper 90s, 100-degrees for the next two months," he said. Legend has it Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, made peace with Indians under the tree's branches. Leaves have turned brown and fallen off the tree since it was poisoned with the potent herbicide Velpar, in what police say was a ritual act to cast a spell or curse.

Workers labour to save historic tree

AUSTIN (AP) — The historic "Treaty Oak," which has provided shade for generations of Texans, will itself be shaded as part of the effort to save the majestic tree that was poisoned with a herbicide.

"The whole plan of attack is to try and minimize the stress on the tree," Paul Roberts, an environmental specialist with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, said Monday. Later this week, 12-metre screens will be stretched across sets of poles on the east and west sides of the 20-metre-high, centuries-old tree. The mesh screens are made of a fabric similar to the kind used to block sun and wind at tennis courts.

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Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	°C °F Weather
AMSTERDAM	15	24	24 75 Cloudy
ATHENS	22	72	35 86 Clear
BAHRAIN	30	86	34 100 Cloudy
BANGKOK	26	79	35 86 Clear
Buenos Aires	01	33	13 55 Clear
CARIO	21	70	36 97 Clear
CHICAGO	17	62	26 84 Clear
COPENHAGEN	13	52	24 75 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	13	55	27 77 Cloudy
GENEVA	13	55	21 70 Cloudy
HONG KONG	22	72	26 82 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	15	55	24 75 Cloudy
LONDON	22	72	26 82 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	55	24 75 Cloudy
MADRID	20	68	31 88 Clear
MOSCOW	20	82	29 90 Cloudy
MONTEVIDEO	16	51	